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Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Update to Lunchtime Arrangements

As you will know from the September newsletter, we have changed the offer the children have in terms of lunchtime play. This decision was made due to seeing what other schools in Sandwell offer and feedback from the children, as well as the fact that keeping year groups in separate zones was specifically brought in for Covid and this was five years ago now, so we needed to move forward.

Children can choose to move around 'zoned' areas within our site, during lunchtime. Each zone offers a different type of play and activity, from role-play and quiet zones, to football and construction zones! It means that the children can choose a different activity each day and play with other children than just their year group. It also means that should a child feel they want to be apart from another child, they can do this without being 'stuck' in the same area of the playground every day. It has also meant the activities on offer have developed, which we have worked hard to introduce.

The aim is to make lunchtime play more purposeful and in doing so, support children with their social and emotional skills through the range of activities on offer and the children have enjoyed exploring the resources around the site.

Whilst most feedback from the children and many parents has been positive, I am aware that some parents are concerned about the changes. Therefore, to reassure you:

- There is a midday supervisor on each zone and therefore all children are supervised
- Reception children have their own zone on the playground, with two midday supervisors monitoring and supporting them
- Whilst some children may access the area of the playground where Reception children are, to access role play resources, the Reception children are not allowed out of their area and stay with their allocated dinner ladies
- There is a trained first aider on duty outside every lunchtime, who is on hand to deal with any first aid issues.

Due to the change, Mrs MacDiarmid and I have been outside for many lunchtimes to be able to monitor this and although we will never eradicate fall-outs between pupils, this has been reduced across the school this term.

As always, we are on the playground before and after school most days, should you have any concerns and staff are on doors in the morning, or around at the end of the day, should you need to speak to someone about a concern regarding your child.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Gilbert